[Translation]

Report of Expert Team on Rural Population

1242. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the planning Commission has set up any task force under the Chairmanship of Prof. N.K. Singh to study and develop appropriate self managing oganisations delivery statems for integrated development at the villages/block and distinct levels;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the task force;

(c) the time by which the report is likely to be implemented; and

(d) of not the reeasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Task force are as follows;

i) A study of the prevailing administrative structure of the Central Government with a view to make change towards quick and timely decision-making; opening up the decision-making process so that creative options are presented to the political decision makers. structural adjustment so as to achieve greater coordination among departments and reduced fragmentation in planning and implemeantation; and procedural simplification to reduce inter-ministerial consultations.

Towards these ends it has recommended some specifc steps such as; clearer definition of the roles of ministries/departments to stress policy planning rather day-to-day administration; increased use of professional expertise by Government; setting up of inter-minsterial/ departmental task forces charged with achieving results; shift of the basis of evaluation of performance from achievement of expenditure of financial targets to that of various objectives leading to clearly defined missions; and an attitudinal change from " regulate and control " and "Play safe" to a "developmental and result oriented approach".

ii) In order to achieve greater integration in the entire developmental administration at the district and block levels, it has suggested the merger of existing civil and developmental administration as has been done in West Bengal. It has also suggested regrouping of village level functionaries to form cohesive and coordinated functions with consequent reduction of staff.

iii) Simplification of the cooperative Societies Act and the Societies Registration Act.

iv) It has suggested the setting up of a village institution to be called "gram vikas sangam" for purposes of development without political overtones so as to unite people for a common cause instead of dividing their interests for contradictory objectives. The leaders of such institutions are to be chosen by consensus and only if this is, infea-

sible, should an election be held. The common properaties of the village should be vested in this institution so that they are put to best use and the community takes the responsibility for the development of wastelands situated in the village. Various education/development department personnel should be accountable to the village community. The village should be guided by exposure to expertise and training through a nucleus of consultancy organisations at the block level. The village institution should also take up reforms such as eradication of illicit distillation, improvement of educational system, promotion of family welfare, elimination of untouchability etc.

v) It has recommended a national nucleus for promotion of voluntary institutions at the Centre, not as a Government organisation but as a registered society.

vi) It finds that the ideal financial support system should be a single window system. so that the process of obtaining clearances is streamlined.

vii) While encouraging growth of institutions it observes the need to provided adequate safeguards against unscrupulous ones with doubtful motives. Misuse of power and financial resources is most likely to take place in such institutions as are not accountable to users, producers etc. It points out that in the gram vikas sangam, accountability alone will check misuse of power and/or funds by the Panchayats or voluntary institutions. Similarly in the case of voluntary institutions, it has recommended that it be made mandatory that they open their accounts for inspection by the communuity/users/members.

viii) It has suggested a "snowballing approach " which will mean supporting the identified institutions with a track record to undertake the same or similar work in different villages so as to create a multiplier effect.

ix) It has recommended that packages be developed for training and building up of community leaders for management of voluntary institutions.

(c) and (d). As is evident from the recommedations of the Task Forece, it requires extensive consultations with Ministries, Departments, Governments of States, voluntary agencies etc. The Planning Commission is in the process of sending the report of the Task force to all such bodies/ persons. After consulting them, appropriate measures will have to be devised so that they bear on the process of planning and implementation in the Eighth Plan.

[*English*]

Refund of Money by CIL

1243. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. had collected Rs. 150 crores about a year ago from the small scale industries;

(b) whether CIL had neither supplied coal/coke against this deposit nor had refunded the advance money; and

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government in the matter?